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The present invention, which achieves these objectives, relates to image processing in which an image resolution of a input image data is compared to information of predetermined standard resolution, and the image data is judged to determine whether it includes specific information related to copy protection, with judging being controlled not to work on the basis of the result of the comparing means. Because the control technique of the present invention controls not to work the judgment on the basis of the result of the comparing means, the control technique according to the invention provides an efficient judging processing, since no judgment is performed on low resolution image data which is not so prone to counterfeiting.

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